

# Community Engagement & Collaborative Partnerships



ONE  
TAM



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Reaching the  
Whole Community:  
Centering Equity in  
Parks and Public  
Engagement





# Bringing Nature to the Canal Community: Pickleweed Library as Gateway to Parks

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## How do volunteer docents expand our reach?

- Environmental Educator
- Ambassador for the Watershed
- Community Scientist
- Voice for the Resource
- Data Collector



## Join the Frog Docent class of 2024

Help protect  
Mt. Tam's  
Foothill  
Yellow-Legged  
Frogs

Get outside and become a  
community scientist by  
educating visitors about this  
incredible species



Join us on  
**Saturday,  
March 9th**

Zoom orientation 9AM-11AM  
Field training at **Little Carson Falls** 1PM-4PM

Learn about this threatened species  
and what you can do to protect its  
remaining breeding habitat at the  
waterfalls of Mt. Tam!

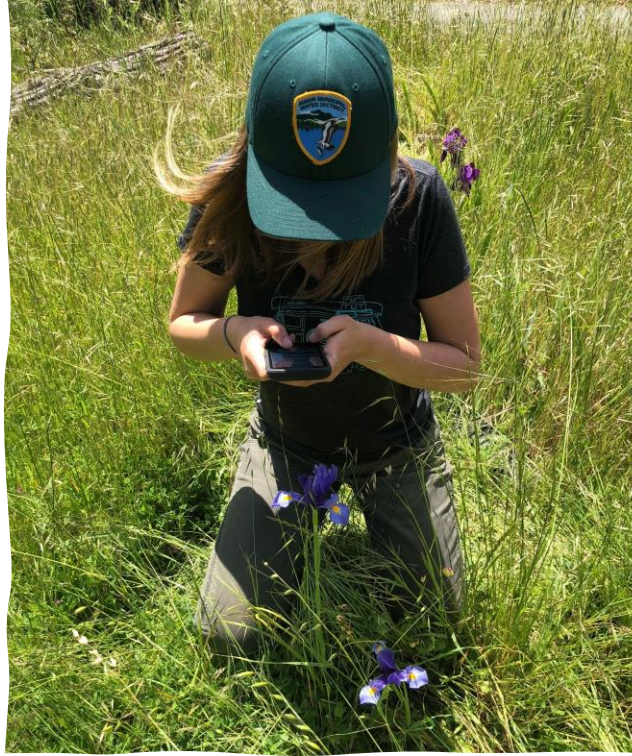
Volunteers must be age 18+  
Attendance at both docent trainings is  
required. Program runs March-June.



RSVP REQUIRED  
[marinwater.org/  
volunteer](https://marinwater.org/volunteer)







# Managing docents – Lessons learned

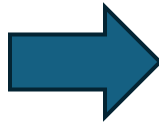
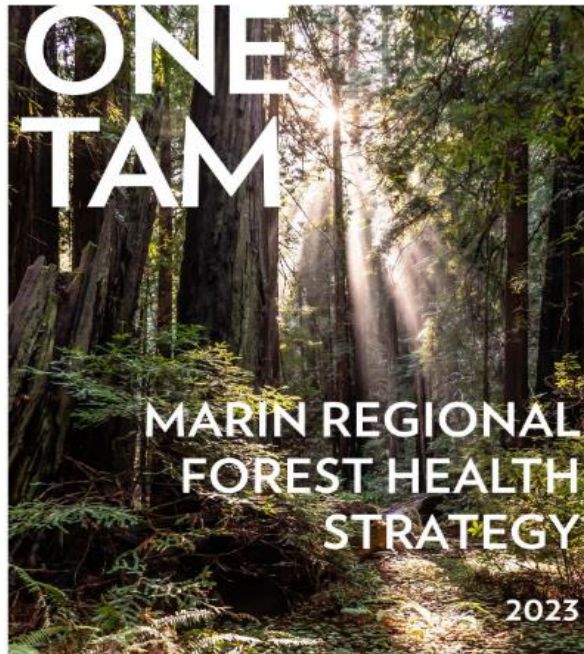
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- Invest in training
  - Subject matter
  - Communications strategies
- Continual motivation
  - Staff support
  - Tools
  - Connection to the resource
- High standards





# Translating Science & Land Management: Self-Guided Walks as Tools for Priority Messages



## 6 MOUNTAIN THEATER FIRE TRAIL FOG & FIRE

Mt. Tam's unique geography and location near the coast have created a number of different microclimates with clusters of rare species. This part of the mountain receives a marine influence in the form of persistent summer fog, providing moisture for unique chaparral and grassland plants. These plants are also dependent on periodic fire for

LOOK FOR TREES THAT HAVE A RING OF BARK REMOVED. These are Douglas-firs, and this treatment is called girdling (*inset*). Douglas-firs are native, but without fire their fast-growing saplings can encroach on other vegetation communities. Girdling causes trees to slowly decay, while retaining benefits that the trees provide such as wildlife habitat and carbon storage.

Carefully cross East Ridgecrest Boulevard to the dirt parking lot. Cut across this lot to the Mountain Theater Trail and continue until you are above the theater seats.



Mountain Theater at Mount Tamalpais in 1936. Source: California State Parks.

## 5 MOUNTAIN THEATER THE WORK OF THE CCC

The Mountain Theater (also called the Cushing Memorial Theater) is a National Historic Site and home to the annual spring Mountain Play, Sound Summit in support of Mt. Tamalpais State Park, and other special events. It was built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) which was created during the Great Depression to combat historic unemployment and develop



# Self-Guided Tours in Action

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- Educating the public
- Staff training
- Aligning messaging





# Why is Community Engagement Important?

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- Inclusivity and Representation
- Improved Decision Making
- Empowerment & Ownership
- Mandated in Stewardship Plans
- Building Trust & Relationships





